

SINGAPORE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL PERFIN MACHINE

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I bought this interesting perfin machine from the Sunday flea market in Singapore. The vendor already had a paper sample of the perfin “S/MC” attached to the machine. Immediately this struck me as the Singapore Municipal Council perfin commonly found on many receipt stamps and the council’s official letters. The manufacturer’s name plate – “J. Sloper & Co. Ltd, London EC4” can be seen in Figure 1 below.



Fig. 1 – Side view of Singapore Municipal Council machine

I tested the machine and after some oiling of the pins found that I was able to produce fairly clear strikes of the perfin. The machine produces four strikes of the die as can be seen in Figure 4 overleaf.



Fig. 2 – Sloper name plate

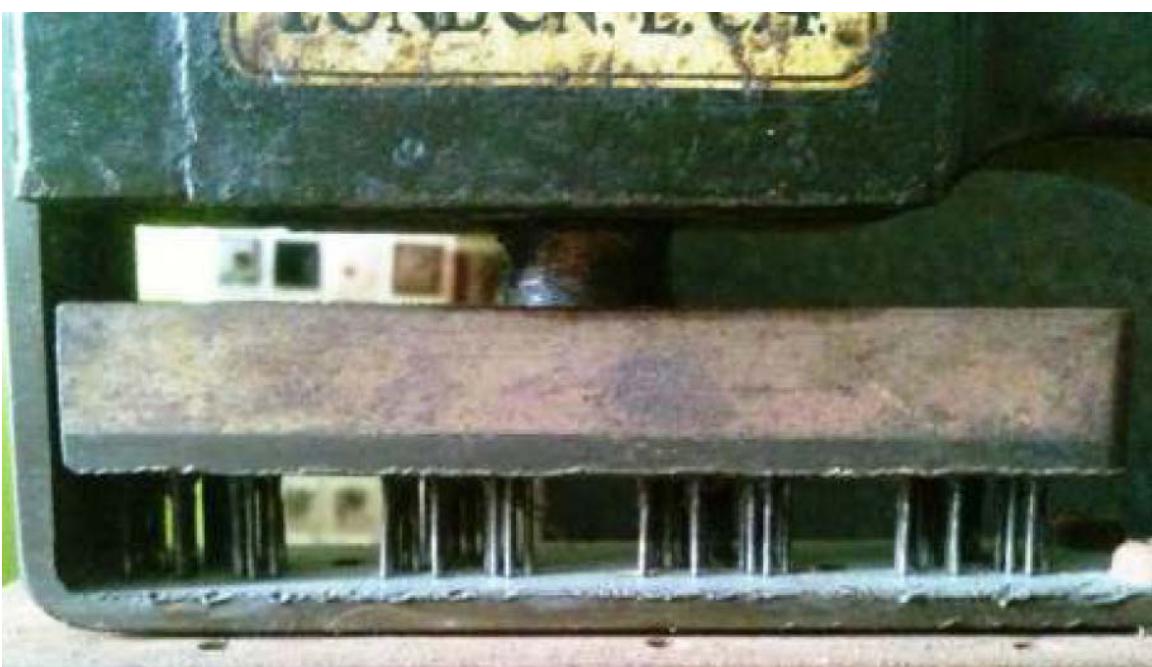


Fig. 3 – Close-up platen showing the pins.



Figure 4 – Punching on black cardboard shows the four die strikes

[Ed. There are two catalogues covering the perfins of Malaysia by Giffen and Lavender. On consulting these I find that this die was used between 1947 and 1974. However the catalogues also show the user to be the Singapore Municipal Commissioners rather than Council. I have tried to research these two organisations but have made little progress. Maybe one of our members has a confirming cover that would confirm which identified user is correct.]